



**Epitome : International Journal
of Multidisciplinary Research**
ISSN : 2395-6968

Individual Response to Reality: Radicalism in the Lashkar Series of Mukul Deva



Mrs. Kusuma M

Associate Professor and Head,
Department of English
Government First Grade College for Women
Holenarasipura-573211
Hassan district, Karnataka state
Email: mkusuma502@gmail.com

Abstract

Contemporary reality is sketched from the imaginary strokes of the veteran in the Lashkar series. The novelist Mukul Deva, who has known the inside picture of the armed forces, has shown the effect of radicalism on the lives of civilians and personnel. The four novels penned and published each year from 2008 to 2011, *Lashkar*, *Salim Must Die*, *Blowback*, and *Tanzeem*, portray the inner realities of the borders, the role of national policies, and individual causes amplifying the threats of armed conflicts. When it is a matter of uniformed or organised opposition, we assume that the war will take place due to the collective cause and welfare motive intended. However, the protagonist, Iqbal, proves otherwise in all four sequels of *Lashkar*. As an ordinary boy from Lucknow, India, the turmoil and losses in his personal life led to his involvement in terror activities, and the related chain of events continued to catch the whole nation in a whirlwind of hate

and fear, leading to Iqbal's radical reaction to reality.

The militants, as well as the armed forces of the nations, take radical measures to curb the power and attain beneficiary ends. The unrelenting of violence and unrest to achieve peace is an irony of the situation. This paper studies the four novels as narratives of personal agony, losses and aspirations. The humane portrayal of the uniformed personnel is unique in all these novels. The militants of the opponent nation, like Brigadier Murad Salim, are assessed realistically.

This study also tries to analyse the words of the erstwhile American President Ronald Regan on how "one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter" concerning the actions in the select novels. The paper observes the intricacies among the world's terrorist organisations, the intelligence and armed forces of the nations, and the ignorant public, ironically, in the democratic setup.

Keywords

reality, conflicts, welfare, personal, public.